

Dear Mr. Bryant:

Thank you for your recent request regarding GS#362-039 – Woolfolk Building Furniture Purchase.

The planning and design of the Woolfolk Building was administered by the Fordice Administration. The legislature authorized an expenditure of \$1,000,000.00 for the design and preplanning of the Capitol Complex, which includes the Woolfolk Building in Senate Bill No. 3057 (1992). Further, the legislature authorized the expenditure of \$44,200,000.00 for the repair and renovation of the Woolfolk Building, an addition to the Woolfolk Building and other capitol facility improvements in House Bill 1582 (1995). The legislature also authorized an expenditure of \$43,000,000.00 in House Bill No. 1792 (1998) for the Woolfolk Building and other capitol facility improvements.

A contract of \$3,325,483.29 was executed to purchase furnishings for the Woolfolk Building on December 12, 1999, which is before the current administration took office.

A lack of transition period for the new administration, an extended legislative session and two extraordinary legislative sessions delayed the purchase of furnishings for the Woolfolk Building offices. For those reasons, an emergency declaration was enacted to insure that offices could be furnished at the time of the move.

The declaration of emergency was made pursuant to Section 31-7-1(i), *Mississippi Code of 1972, which provides... when the immediate preservation of order or of public health is necessary by reason of unforeseen emergency, or when the immediate restoration of a condition of usefulness of any public building...appears advisable...*

Hence, the declaration was a lawful exercise of statutory authority by the Office of the Governor, the Department of Finance and Administration and the Public Procurement Review Board.

Should you need anything further, please advise.